
2H

Information

Professional Services Committee

Proposal to Establish a Single Subject Teaching Credential in General Science (Foundational-Level)

AGENDA INSERT

Executive Summary: This agenda item provides additional information requested by the Commission at the December Commission meeting regarding a proposal for a new Single Subject credential subject area: General Science (Foundational-Level).

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Teri Clark, Administrator,
Professional Services Division.

Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators.

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation and performance of professional educators and for the accreditation of credential programs.

April 2008

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
601 North E Street, CA 92410-3093 (909) 387-3205
Herbert R. Fischer, Ph.D., Superintendent

**SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATORS *of*
SAN BERNARDINO & SAN DIEGO COUNTIES**

April 4, 2008

The Honorable Dr. David Pearson, Chair
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95811

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT
GENERAL SCIENCE (FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL)
SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL

Dear Chair Pearson:

School districts throughout California have been struggling for years to acquire highly qualified science teachers. The task has been a daunting one and classroom assignments have been filled by a variety of less desirable alternative avenues. It is, therefore, especially exciting to see a very positive response to this problem on your April 10-11 Commission agenda.

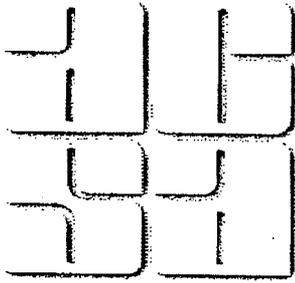
The proposed Single Subject Teaching Credential in General Science (Foundational-Level) is a much needed answer to the significant shortage of qualified teachers of introductory science. The attraction of this credential is two-fold in that Institutions of Higher Education will be able to quickly address the curricular offerings necessary to meet the new credentials requirements and the ability to add this new authorization to an existing credential will make it an attractive and efficient vehicle for teachers already employed in our schools.

We heartily endorse the proposed new General Science credential and strongly encourage its approval by the Commission.

Sincerely,



Bruce Kitchen
CCTC/School District Liaison



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EDUCATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION**

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OFFICE LOCATIONS

Sacramento

1029 J Street, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95814
tel 916.444.3216 • 800.608.2272
fax 916.444.3739

Burlingame

1575 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame, CA 94010
tel 650.692.4300 • 800.608.2272

Executive Office
fax 650.692.1508

Educational Services
fax 650.692.6858

Financial Services
fax 650.259.1029

Member Services
fax 650.692.7297

Ontario

3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite B-205
Ontario, CA 91764
tel 909.484.7503 • 800.608.2272
fax 909.484.7504

<http://www.acsa.org>

April 1, 2008

Dr. David Pearson, Chair
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
1900 Capitol Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Support Development of General Science Credential

Dear Chair Pearson,

On behalf of the members of the Association of California School Administrators, we would like to respectfully encourage the Commission to authorize the staff to begin the development of the General Science Credential. We have reviewed the possibility of the development of this credential with a number of our leadership groups and there is overwhelming support for this concept.

As you can see from the data presented in the agenda item, the development of the General Math credential provided a significant number of credentialed teachers who became available to teach the foundational math courses without having a major impact on those teachers seeking the specialized math credential. We suspect that the development of the General Science credential will have the same impact on staffing in the field of science.

It is our belief that the development of the General Science Credential will provide highly qualified teachers to teach the foundational courses of science and thus provide some relief for the need to seek staff that is less than fully qualified.

We urge your support for the development of this new credential.

Sincerely,

Sharon S. Robison, Consultant



April 4, 2008

Dr. David Pearson, Chair
Commission On Teacher Credentialing
1900 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Dr. Pearson:

The California Association of Suburban School Districts (CALSSD) supports the establishment of a single subject General Science Credential (Item 2H on the April agenda). CALSSD represents approximately 40 of the largest suburban school districts in California.

This proposed new single subject license would provide an additional subject area science credential that carries the benefit of reducing the number of individuals currently teaching on waivers, permits and local teaching assignment options. It would limit the holder to teaching general, introductory, and integrated science (integrated science through grade 8 only) classes.

CALSSD supports any efforts the Commission can take to increase the number of science teachers in California. Approval of Item 2H will provide one additional option to school districts to ensure that science courses are taught by highly qualified instructors. It is our view that approval of this credential will result in more teachers being prepared to teach science, even if it is at an introductory level. On a statewide basis, there is clearly a shortage of qualified science teachers. While individuals holding this new credential would not be able to teach UC/CSU approved science courses, they would be able to fill much needed positions in introductory science that are offered in every high school. Approximately one-half of all the science courses offered in our middle and high schools are not on the UC/CSU approved list. This fact alone, makes approval of this credential worthwhile.

Again CALSSD supports the approval of this new General Science Credential. If we can be of further support on this item please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Frost
CALSSD Legislative Advocate

cc: Dale Janssen
Teri Clark